



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

MAY 2024
VOLUME 78, ISSUE 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MONTHLY PROGRAM	1
BOARDZ BUZZ	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	4
EDUCATION	5
ELMERS' CORNER	6
MORSE CODE TRAINING	6
ELMERS	7
MAY MEETING RAFFLE PRIZES	7
GOALS FOR WHEN LIFE GETS TOO EASY	8
"ONE CW QUESTION" YOUTUBE SERIES	9
RETURN OF RARA CRUISE NIGHT	10
ARES/RACES ACTIVATED FOR ECLIPSE EVENT	11
MAY 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT	12
APRIL MEETING REVIEW	13
MAY 2024 CALENDAR	14
VE TEAM	15
NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS	16
AMATEUR'S CODE	18
ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS ANNOUNCEMENTS	19
RAGS OF THE PAST	20
RARA OFFICERS	24
AREA CLUB CONTACTS	25

MAY MEETING: Back to Basics Part 2

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Back in March we explored the basics of getting on the air on VHF. This month we will continue the 'back to basics' theme. The first part of the meeting will be a short presentation from Mike Moore KC2NM about digital mobile radio. Following that we will take a look at operating at HF. The plan is not to get too stuck in the weeds but use this as an introduction with an academy session at a later date to delve into the subtler features of HF.

As with the March meeting, we hope this will be interactive with seasoned hams offering their advice and opinions and all participants coming up with questions.

Of course, there will be coffee and donuts in the break, raffle tickets on sale and we will have a table for free goodies so if you have something radio related that you are happy to give to a new home please bring it along. But please take it home if nobody grabs it!

We are also adding a new feature. The small room at the front of the building does not get much use although it is included in our BSA rental so we thought of making a small display of radio-related items. We are starting simple with a display of multi-meters and devices for basic electrical measurements. We have several to display but if you have anything of interest, whether it is an antique or the latest all singing and dancing gizmo please bring it along!

The May meeting is on Wednesday May 1st 2024, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6678646271444513632>



BOARDZ BUZZ

BRIAN O'CONNOR, KA2CGB, TREASURER

Strengthening the Club

Amateur Radio is an expansive hobby. Ham interests span DC to Light, software and hardware, and from theory to design / build / operate.

Each ham has a unique set of interests and experience. Ham radio flourishes with that diversity.

I invite all RARA members to consider how you might contribute a few hours to share your experience and skill with other hams. Share your knowledge with a meeting presentation, as an Elmer, or support our programs with planning and/or execution.

Article III-A of our By-Laws specify that "The Board of Directors shall be composed of not less than seven (7) nor more than eleven (11) full members, four (4) of whom will be the officers of the corporation, as from time to time may be elected by the full members of the corporation at any annual or special meeting called for the purpose of electing directors."

Your current Board consists of nine (9) members, which means we can readily accommodate two (2) additional members.

Please think about how you might help guide RARA as we continue to support the Amateur Radio community throughout the Finger Lakes region.

Please reach out to any Board member for more information, to contribute ideas or to express interest in further participation. (Note that monthly Board meetings are held on-line, eliminating a need for travel.)

DLARC

RARA has recently contributed our *Rag* archive to the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC). DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive.

DLARC has a huge amount of content including newsletters and equipment manuals as well as audio and video content. So, unless you are prepared to "drink from a fire hose" choose your search terms carefully ;)

See <https://archive.org/search?query=rara+rag>.

Foster Care for RARA Donations

RARA has accumulated a fair number of donated items in recent years.

As the caretaker of this equipment, I mostly provide dry storage. Our intent is to find a good home for what are mostly treasures of yesteryear.

But I need help to evaluate and rehabilitate the equipment. I'm looking for individuals who can take an item in unknown condition, test it and if possible return the unit to operation.

In return for your effort, you can hold onto it if you continue to use it, with the understanding that the item will eventually be passed on by RARA at a Hamfest, at our Auction, or as a loaner to a newer Ham.

Our current inventory includes RX, TX, XCVR, PA, PS and ATU, spanning HF thru 70cm. Manufacturers include Ameritron, Drake, Globe, Heath, Henry, National and others.

If you are willing to provide foster care for any of these units, please contact me directly. I will work with you to identify items which fit with your interest and experience.

Wishing everyone a great summer !
73

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2024 - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6678646271444513632>

THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday May 4, 2024 - Operating Event for New(ish) Hams
10:00 AM Set up, 11:00 AM Event begins
Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili

Saturday Jun 8, 2024 - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

Saturday Jul 27, 2024 - RARA Summer Picnic at Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I don't have much news to report this month, membership continues to climb slowly, currently we have 410 members which is a lot less than the 519 we had at this time last year, I'm not sure what has caused that.

Now is the time to renew if you have not already done so and are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already renewed.

If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!

You can join by clicking [here](#) or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Earn Membership Points for contributing/volunteering at Club Events.
- Redeem Membership Points for annual dues and other activities
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to Geoffrey Backus N3GJB who joined RARA this month and also welcome back Vince Roberts, N2XMT who has rejoined after several year hiatus in his membership.

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

Silent Key

William D. Shaw
W2HYN
March 21, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRIAN O'CONNOR, KA2CGB, TREASURER

This summer will include many opportunities for you to be out and about with RARA:

May 4: Join us for the RARA Academy "Operating Event for New(ish) Hams" in Black Creek Park. There will be lots of learning: a variety of radios and antennas to explore, along with good fellowship and lots of operating opportunities.

June 8: RARA will have a booth at the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Outdoor Expo in Mendon Ponds Park on June 8, where we will inform and demonstrate Ham Radio to visitors.

June 8: The Tour de Cure is the premier fundraising campaign of the American Diabetes Association. The Rochester area's tour has been one of their most successful bike-a-thons. This year's event will be based out of the Finger Lakes Community College. Amateur operators using 2m radio will provide rider support and safety communications along the route from Canandaigua to Naples, Geneva, and return.

June 22-23: ARRL Field Day. Details of area club deployments will appear in the June edition of the RARA Rag.

July 27: RARA Summer Picnic at Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park

August 10: The MS ROC Great Lakes Adventure benefits the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This fundraising event will begin and end at Lakeside Beach State Park extending west toward Olcott. Orleans County OCARC will be leading this activity.

August 10: We have been asked to provide operational and safety communications for the Mammoth March, which is a rigorous 20-mile, 8-hour hike around Letchworth Park. Because of the topography, we may need to be creative with multiple repeaters, cross band and maybe even 6 meters or HF. We plan supporting HQ (start/finish) along with four (4) on-trail aid/water stations as well as mobile support by sweep and shuttle crews.

August 17-18: Join us at the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW). This should be a great year to make HF QSOs with individual Hams as well as other ILLW stations.

September 21: RARA will again provide operational and safety communications for the Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta.

Hamfests in Western New York

The Drumlins Hamfest -- the first Hamfest of the season in our area -- was held on 20 April in Palmyra. The turnout was great!!

May 4: AWA Spring Meet and Auction, Bloomfield NY:

<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/2024-spring-meet/>

June 8: Cortland Hamfest, Cortland County Fairgrounds:

https://skylinehamradioclub.org/?page_id=76

June 8: Lockport LARA Hamfest, Cambria Volunteer Fire Dept., Lockport N.Y:

<https://www.lockportara.us/>

July 13: RAGS Hamfest, Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse, Camillus Elks Club: <https://ragsclub.org/ham-fest/>

July 20: Batavia Hamfest, Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Alexander NY:

<https://w2so.org/batavia-hamfest/>

August 17: KLARA Hamfest, Hornell NY: <http://klara.us>

August 24: ROC City Net Hamfest in Macedon:

<http://roccitynethamfest.com/>

Several more Hamfests will be held in September. For a current listing see

<https://www.upstateham.com/p/2014-upstate-hamfests-that-i-have-heard.html>



EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

If you missed our last round of classes, please let us know that you are interested, and we will put you on the list for the next session. The April VE session was our last one until September. Keep in mind that there are other testing opportunities in the area: Spring and summer is the season of hamfests, and a lot of hamfests do offer VE testing.

New General Question Pool

Since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition. Even though this book is almost brand new, it already is out of date – the FCC changed the data rate limitations on the HF bands to a bandwidth restriction. In general, you can find the questions in all three question pools that have been withdrawn listed on this page: <http://www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions>.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings).

OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

If you are new to the hobby, or have been away from it for a few years and don't know how to get back into the groove, or if you just want to learn something new, this event is for you!

Mark your calendars for May 4th 2024. For the fourth time, we have rented the Pathfinder shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili to present different aspects of our hobby to you. We will start the setup at 10am and will be ready for you at 11am, and we will stay until either you run out of questions or we will run out of steam. Based on experience, this is usually around 3pm.

This will also be an in-person edition of our Elmers Corner, so please come prepared with questions that might need some hands-on experience to get answered.

If there is anything specific you would like to learn, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org, and I will try to find somebody to teach that skill.

We would like to get an idea about how many people to expect, so please send an email to the same address with your name and your callsign (if you have one) so that we can plan ahead. Also, if you are planning on bringing an HT for programming, please let us know the make and model, so that we can be prepared.

CALL FOR ELMERS FOR OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

Our annual operating event for New(ish) Hams is coming up on May 4th 2024. As in previous years, we've rented the Pathfinder shelter at Black Creek Park in Chili. We are looking for volunteers to teach and present whatever niche in ham radio is keeping them interested and busy. If you are willing to show some new hams the one thing in ham radio they really need to know about, please let us know. We will start setting up at 10am, the actual event starts at 11am and runs until we run out of steam (which is usually around 3 or 4pm). Here are some topic areas I would like to present: CW, HF, VHF/UHF, direction finding, working satellites, building antennas, soldering, APRS, digital modes, and more. If you can come up with something that is not on the list yet, please consider demonstrating that aspect of our hobby. Keep in mind that oftentimes our new hams have not yet been on the air yet, so allowing them to make their first contact at our event is important. I think we all remember how frightening it was the first time we pushed that PTT button or that CW key to actually transmit. Let's help our newest members with that step.

RARA ACADEMY

We are working on a follow-up to our first RARA Academy about circuit simulation with LTSpice. I will post more information as soon as it is available.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ
Elmers' Corner Coordinators

We can't wait to see you all in person at the May 4th Academy which will be our Elmers' Corner for May. We did decide to have 1 more Zoom Elmers' Corner before Rich and I start camping on a regular basis. It will be June 1st, which is the first day of the month at 10am.

Just because we won't be doing Zoom meetings during the summer, doesn't mean we can't help you. We will always be around to answer any questions you have.

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer at our next zoom meeting, please email them to us at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

May 4th is IN PERSON at the hands-on Academy session

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

LOOKING FOR A NEW BEGINNER'S MORSE CODE ELMER

To all CW Elmers, Pete Fournia, W2SKY, has stepped down as instructor for the Beginner's Morse Code Class. If you would like to take over this class and help folks get started in CW, please get in touch with me, Dave, WA2HOY, or Karl Heinz, K5KHK.

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at: tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)
[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

May Meeting Raffle Prizes

- Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio (book)
- SOTabeams Fuser 6DC Distribution Boxes
FUSER-6-KIT
- Yaesu FT-4XR



GOALS FOR WHEN LIFE GETS TOO EASY

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

When you look back over the last few years, you've seen articles from me about setting goals and then trying to achieve them: Having at least one CW contact every day of the year, or hunting at least one POTA park every day of the year. When I first set out to do this, it was hard. Things get in the way, and sometimes you just forget that there still is not yet a CW contact in the log for the day before the Zulu day turns over.



For the last couple of years, it has gotten easier and easier. Especially because I started to throw technology at the problem: I created a station that I can operate remotely, so being on a trip is no longer a good reason to miss out having this (at least) one contact per day.

When things get too easy, it's time to adjust those goals. How about hunting at least one POTA park in CW, phone and data per day of the year? Last year I got close. I ended up hunting at least one CW POTA Park every day of the year (That's two birds with one stone – that also counts for the plain CW contact per day. Yay!), and I missed a few days for each phone and data.

This March, I upped the ante as far as CW goes: It's easy to make contacts with the 50W that my home station will produce (yes, even when I go QRO, it's the QRP version of QRO), so I set myself a new goal: Try for at least one CW QRP contact into a POTA park per day. After a week of that I dialed up the goal meter another notch: Why not try to hunt all POTA parks in CW with QRP power?

QSO	Date	Time	Callsign	Mode	Frequency	QSL	LoW	RX	eQ	TX	State	Note	Locator	Power	QTH	POTA Activation	POTA	My Gridsq
7,108	4/15/24	1210	KB9RPG	CW	7,045.3	W	W	449	W	579	IN	[POTA US-10247 US-IN Lawrence Creek S...		5	US-10247		US-10247	
7,107	4/15/24	1208	AC4BT	CW	7,060.0	W	W	579	W	599	NY	[POTA US-2094 US-NY Lake Taghkanic St...		5	US-2094		US-2094	
7,106	4/15/24	1205	N1BS	CW	10,114.0	W	W	559	W	559	RI	[POTA US-6979 US-RI Arcadia Manageme...		5	US-6979		US-6979	
7,105	4/15/24	1202	K2JVB	CW	7,052.0	W	W	589	W	599	NY	[POTA US-8085 US-NY Fort Tilden Nation...		5	US-8085		US-8085	
7,104	4/14/24	2156	K4NYM	CW	14,062.0	W	W	559	W	559	FL	[POTA US-3627 US-FL General James A...		5	US-3627		US-3627	
7,103	4/14/24	2154	K7SHR	CW	14,065.0	W	W	439	W	559	WY	[POTA US-10826 US-WY Wigwam Rearing...		5	US-10826		US-10826	
7,102	4/14/24	1238	K2EAG	CW	5,332.0	W	W	579	W	579	PA	[POTA US-0619 US-PA Allegheny National...		5	US-0619		US-0619	
7,101	4/13/24	1841	K4NYM	CW	21,042.0	W	W	559	W	559	FL	[POTA US-6327 US-FL Tenoroc Wildlife Ar...		5	US-6327		US-6327	
7,100	4/13/24	1559	NR3K	CW	7,060.5	W	W	559	W	559	PA	[POTA US-1361 US-PA Hills Creek State P...		5	US-1361		US-1361	
7,099	4/13/24	1447	N3KAE	CW	10,111.0	W	W	379	W	559	PA	[POTA US-8818 US-PA PA 119 State Game...		5	US-8818		US-8818	
7,098	4/13/24	1431	WD8RIF	CW	7,063.0	W	W	559	W	449	OH	[POTA US-9510 US-OH Tycoon Lake State...		5	US-9510		US-9510	
7,097	4/13/24	1424	KU8T	CW	7,062.0	W	W	579	W	559	IN	[POTA US-2263 US-IN Ouabache State Pa...		5	US-2263		US-2263	
7,096	4/13/24	1413	N3RN	CW	14,047.0	W	W	559	W	449	FL	[POTA US-8362 US-FL Murphy Creek Stat...		5	US-8362		US-8362	
7,095	4/12/24	1457	W15D	CW	14,049.0	W	W	599	W	599	MO	[POTA US-11042 US-MO Kahrs-Boger Sta...		5	US-11042		US-11042	
7,094	4/12/24	1402	W1ND	CW	14,061.0	W	W	239	W	449	MS	[POTA US-2554 US-MS Trace State Park]		5	US-2554		US-2554	
7,093	4/12/24	1359	KG4BIG	CW	14,061.1	W	W	339	W	559	KY	[POTA US-10173 US-KY Kentucky Horse P...		5	US-10173		US-10173	
7,092	4/12/24	1342	KG4BIG	CW	7,061.6	W	W	339	W	559	KY	[POTA US-10173 US-KY Kentucky Horse P...		5	US-10173		US-10173	
7,091	4/11/24	1159	N1BS	CW	7,056.0	W	S	579	S	599	RI	[POTA US-6979 US-RI Arcadia Manageme...		5	US-6979		US-6979	
7,090	4/10/24	1024	N1BS	CW	14,055.0	W	W	559	S	599	RI	[POTA US-6979 US-RI Arcadia Manageme...		5	US-6979		US-6979	

We are now halfway through April, and since March 1st, I've had 193 CW POTA QSOs. Of those, 17 were with more than 5W, the others were all with 5W or less. And because my amplifier is often turned off, I am even hunting SSB parks with 5W and making contacts. That is a lot harder than breaking a pileup with 5W QRP, but it's still possible. After a while you get a pretty good idea when it's worth trying with 5W and when there is no chance that the contact will actually happen.

So, if it gets too easy to make contacts, put the bar a little bit higher and see if an adjusted goal will help you hone your operating skills a bit more.

“ONE CW QUESTION” YOUTUBE SERIES

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

I struggled to learn CW for almost 30 years (OK, there was a big gap when I was not even thinking about ham radio, so technically it was a lot shorter than 30 years, but you get the idea), and it took a classroom type setup to finally get me going. Thank you Tim WB2PAY for getting me started in earnest on CW and showing me that it actually can be fun.

Not everybody can have the advantage of learning CW sitting around Tim’s dining room table and eating Cathy’s cookies, so what might help others to get into CW and then keep them going until they actually feel ready to get on the air?



Vince D'Eon VE6LK of Ham Radio Workbench fame started a YouTube series a little while ago in which he asks CW operators with different backgrounds and skill levels the **One CW Question** “What is your one best tip for new CW operators?”. The videos are all short, so this won’t take you away from practicing CW for too long.

When you go through the answers (and yes, sometimes it is more than just one tip), you will find a few themes. The most important one is probably “just get on the air”, and a close 2nd is “get over your mistakes, we all make them”. There is a lot more there however, so take your time to work through the playlist. You don’t have to invest more than just a couple of minutes per video.

The list of Vince’s interviewees is a “Who’s Who” of CW operators you find on the bands on a regular basis. They know what they are talking about, either because they’ve used CW for a long time, or because they just went through what

every learner of CW is experiencing as well.

You will either get encouragement for already doing the right thing, or you will pick up a trick or tip or two (or 50).

You can find a list of all the tips here, when you click on the text of the tip, it will bring up to the short YouTube video:

<https://ve6lk.com/learning/learning-cw-one-cw-question/>

Here is the actual YouTube playlist for the videos:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZq42zkkA9oOPUACaoOgGOMpDxnDSfxwQ&si=97sAr5bdn1uvi6KI)

[list=PLZq42zkkA9oOPUACaoOgGOMpDxnDSfxwQ&si=97sAr5bdn1uvi6KI](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZq42zkkA9oOPUACaoOgGOMpDxnDSfxwQ&si=97sAr5bdn1uvi6KI)

My number one tip, which I did not find in Vince’s list is this: Breathe – do not forget to breathe while tapping out your CW. Yes, it is a lot of stress at first, but try to relax and remember to breathe in and out, in and out. Dit dit.

RETURN OF RARA CRUISE NIGHT

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Following the success of our meeting at the AWA we are looking for other ways that club members can enjoy a good social evening. Back in 2008 we held a RARA Cruise night which was a great success, so we are looking to repeat that event.

Plan is to have an informal Wednesday night meet-up instead of our normal meeting and presentation. Venue would be somewhere local where we can all get a coffee or burger after checking out the vehicles.

Idea is that members who have either a mobile radio rig (VHF or HF) in their car or just have an interesting car, classic or current should come along and the rest of us can just look on in admiration. All types of hamshacks on wheels or mobile antenna farms are welcome! Of course, RARA will provide prizes for the best exhibits.

We haven't decided on a location or date yet – probably our normal meeting night in June or sometime in July, so look out for more news. And if you have a car or motorcycle that is nice to look with or without a mobile radio installation, we would love to see it. And if you don't, then just come along for the fun of it!

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let either Tim K9VB, or Tim KB1POP know!



ARES/RACES ACTIVATED FOR ECLIPSE EVENT

JON DICKASON, N2JAC

Monroe County emergency managers and Red Cross asked for communications assistance during the eclipse on 4/8. RACES manned the radio room at the county emergency operations center and ARES staffed the Red Cross shelter at MCC. All hams were invited to check in to our net to report on road traffic, and county leaders asked for situational awareness updates from the hams several times during the event. We established comms with most of our neighboring counties by voice and digital (APRS and Winlink®). There were just a few isolated traffic jams as people left after the event, but we were prepared for worse, and ARES/RACES team members were there in case we were needed to assist responders with their communication needs.

www.monroecountyemcomm.org



RACES Radio Room - Photo by Seth Irwin, KD2QZG

MAY 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

For the May public service update I want to introduce a pair of cell phone apps that would be helpful for our upcoming Tour de Cure and later events. We will use the WR2AHL Repeater 145.11 for primary communications and the Zello Push to Talk APP for secondary communications. The interest in Zello comes from the need to communicate with non-ham volunteers. Specifically, I am talking about the drivers from West Herr car dealerships. Trucks, drivers, and fuel for the event make up a significant contribution by West Herr toward the total revenue of the Tour de Cure. That makes it important for the event! Zello may be downloaded to your cell phone from the Google Play store for Android phones and in the App Store on iPhone. The Zello App acts as a walkie-talkie using the cellular network for communications. Zello will allow the West Herr drivers to communicate with net control and hear each other on the net. If we have this App, we can hear and talk to them too. For a demonstration of Zello and how to set it up, see the following link.

[How to use/setup free Zello app to join my Zello channel](#)

When you install the App on your phone, connect to the echo channel to test your setup. Zello allows the use of named channels for communications. For the Tour de Cure we will use the Tour de Cure (Rochester NY) channel. To add this channel to your Zello communications, in Zello, add the QR code to the right. The name of the channel is Tour de Cure (Rochester NY). Contact me if you need help. I will demonstrate it at the May RARA meeting.



The second App would be of interest to those without a mobile APRS installation. It is APRSdroid on Google Play and APRS Mobile on iPhone. These Apps allow you to beacon your position on APRS.fi and we will be able to see you on aprs.fi

2024 RARA Public Service Events

Event	Location	Day	Date
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua, NY	Saturday	June 8, 2024
ADK Outdoor Expo	Mendon Ponds Park	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside State Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
Mammoth March Upstate NY	Letchwork Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

I urge you look at the public [service page at the club website](#) , sign up for one of our events and join us for the fun.

APRIL MEETING REVIEW: OLD TIMERS' NIGHT

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Our April meeting is traditionally known as Old Timers' Night and we invite past presidents to join us for a photograph and follow up with a presentation from the AWA. This year we were privileged to accept a kind invitation from the AWA to have our meeting at the Bloomfield AWA Museum. And what a great night it was! Despite it being a very wet rainy evening we had excellent attendance. To get the evening off to a good start a number of us met at Cheap Charlies for dinner and then headed off to the museum which was already getting quite full of RARA members.

We kept the formal early part of the meeting short as this was meant to be a social occasion. There was a lively show of hands as we tried to ascertain who were our most long standing members. I think we determined that Cliff Milner K2SKO at 95 is our oldest past president, Ed Gable K2MP is our longest serving member and Alex Piccarilli NV2Y is our oldest member.

For our annual photograph we had seven presidents plus Alex NV2Y joined as our oldest members. The photo was taken in front of the AWA's operating console from the Voice of America which made a great backdrop.

AWA provided plenty of guides to tell us stories about the exhibits, the museum is indeed a fantastic resource on our doorstep! I'd like to thank Bob Hobday, Lynn Bisha and the museum team for providing us with such an entertaining and delightful meeting. We did eventually all go home but not until Lynn provided a bit of encouragement by turning out the lights!



Past Presidents picture: Back row L to R: Tim Barrett K9VB, Bob Hobday N3EVG, Chris Reich WB2DYJ, Tim Guyot KB1POP. Front Row L to R: Scott Theis W2LW, Alex Picarilli NV2Y (not a past president but our oldest member), Cliff Milner K2SKO and Ed Gable K2MP.



RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RARA Monthly Mtg at BSA 7p ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest AGCW QRP/QRP Party	2 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) Weekly RTTY Test QRP Foxhunt Walk for the Bacon Contest	3 K1USN Speed Test	4 AWA Spring Meet and Auction Microwave Spring Sprint SBMS 2.3GHz and up Contest 10-10 Contest CW ARI DX Contest 7th Call Area QSO Party IN, DE, New Eng QSO Parties F9AA Cup, Digi RCC Cup MIE 33 Contest
5 BMS 2.3GHz and up Contest 10-10 Contest CW ARI DX Contest 7th Call Area QSO Party IN, DE, New Eng QSO Parties F9AA Cup, Digi RCC Cup MIE 33 Contest WAB 7MHz Phone	6 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint	7 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test DARC FT4 Contest	8 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	9 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB Weekly RTTY Test NCCC FT4 Sprint QRP Minimal Art Session	10 K1USN Speed Test	11 Volta WW RTTY Contest CQ-M Int DX Contest SKCC Sprintathon 50MHz Spring Sprint Canadian Prairies QSO Party FISTS Saturday Sprint
12 Volta WW RTTY Contest CQ-M Int DX Contest SKCC Sprintathon 50MHz Spring Sprint Canadian Prairies QSO Party	13 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test RSGB Club 80M Contest, SSB OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	14 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	15 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest NAQCC CW Sprint	16 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NTC QSO Party NCCC Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test Walk for the Bacon Contest	17 Dayton Hamvention K1USN Speed Test	18 Dayton Hamvention UN DX Contest NZART Sangsterr Shield CW EU PSK DX Contest King of Spain Contest, CW AR QSO Party Feld Hell Sprint Baltic Contest
19 Dayton Hamvention UN DX Contest NZART Sangsterr Shield CW EU PSK DX Contest King of Spain Contest, CW AR QSO Party Baltic Contest FISTS Sunday Sprint	20 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial RSGB FT4 Contest WW Sideband Activity Contest	21 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test SKCC Sprint	22 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest RSGB 80M Club Contest , Data	23 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB ICWC Medium Speed Test NCC FT4 Test Weekly RTTY Test CW Ops Test	24 K1USN Speed Test	25 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
26 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	27 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	28 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test	29 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	30 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NCC FT4 Test Weekly RTTY Test CW Ops Test RSGB 80M Club Contest , CW	31 K1USN Speed Test PODXS 070 Club 3 Day Contest	

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at 6:00 PM at the county EOC in even months and at the Red Cross in odd months. They are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA



NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 21 MAY, 7:00PM

LOCATION: JOHNNY'S, 1382 CULVER RD

PROGRAM—N2RD (RAJ) MULTIBAND RECEIVE ANTENNA ARRAY OF VERTICALS WITH NO RADIALS

Go to RDXA.COM for additional information

XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us> We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Simplex Challenge is May 4, 2024 - This is for 2 meter and 6 meter. Watch the Klara website for more information. This is always a fun activity.

Our meetings are always the 2nd wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73,
Belinda KD2BPJ

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink [ka2ene-L #23426](#)

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club and meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 8th. There will be VE testing in May.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

73's
Steve Benton
WB2VMR

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, WWW.K2RRA.ORG for any current information. RRRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



AWA Educational Institute

2024 Hands-On Classes

Learn It, Build It, Fix It

Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier	7 Saturdays Starting 6/29
Vacuum Tube Radio101 Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 9/29-10/1
Solid State Audio Theory	3 Saturdays Starting 10/12
Test Equipment Familiarization	Saturday 11/9

To get more information visit: www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/

AWA SHARES

MICHAEL C. MIGLIACCIO, N3HLM, VICE PRESIDENT, AWA

The monthly *AWA Shares* is about to stage its thirtieth presenter. Thanks to the video on-line streaming of Zoom becoming so popular in the past few years, people are now able to learn more about the historical and technical universe of communications. Presented topics have ranged from accounts of the bygone era of electrically assisted communications to the specific technology details of practical designs. Every third Wednesday of the month Zoom presentations bring you the adventures of early communications pioneers into the privacy and convenience of your home. Audio kits, locating power line noise, NASA communications, early amateur radio pursuits, telegraphy, broadcast history and many other topics delivered to you, in the comfort of your special space where you can sit in your comfy clothes, sip a favorite beverage, enjoying your favorite snack. I encourage you to go to the AWA website and register for the free monthly *AWA Shares* presentations.

Link: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

20 Years Ago, May 2004

This was a very busy twelve-page issue with three main themes throughout: the meeting program of Old Timer's Night, the upcoming three-day Rochester Hamfest and the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention and I guess because they own the Rag, some RARA News. Here we go.

Brad Armstrong W1YX, VP and Program Chairman, wrote to say how successful the April program was with Speaker Jim DiTucci N2IXD, giving a talk on APRS. Both attendance and interest were high, reported Brad, who then continued by announcing the April meeting program as a longtime favorite for that time slot as being RARA's Old Timer's Night. In years past such festivities were held by Bruce Kelley W2ICE (sk) and more recently by, and this evening in particular, Ed Gable K2MP. Ed's program for this gathering is of particular interest to members new and old, being a walk through the history of RARA, 1931 to present. One other note, for this meeting gone are the 35mm slide projectors and synced stereo audio, to be replaced by digital projectors and programming on CD's. Brad ended his program announcement by capturing and writing a very nice Bio on Ed Gable K2MP, and his years of service to the Rochester area Amateur Radio Community and especially RARA. Thank you, Brad – Ed)

Headlining the Hamfest portions of this RARA Rag was Hamfest General Chairman and Past RARA President, Harold Smith (sk) K2HC. Harold told of the hamfest scheduling, the grand banquet, awards to be given and many other events happening during the three-day event. I won't repeat those here as that is old news and current Rag Editor Paul Goldman, WA2TAX, will probably appreciate the space. Hey, you readers, thank Paul for his good work. I have always said that evidence of a well run and vibrant organization can be determined by the content of their newsletter and boy do you historically have a good one here. VE Testing at the Hamfest, and the much-needed coordination to make that possible, is ready to go and the required VE Testing appointment registration is open, writes VE contact person Cheryl Joice AB2NU. At that time the VEC used by the Hamfest was ARRL/VEC.

In closing his monthly "Prez Sez" column, outgoing RARA President George Platteter (sk) AA2FO, thanked the many officers, Board members and the numerous volunteers for their share in making this year yet another successful one for RARA. Published in this issue were the nominees for officers and board members for the following RARA season. They were: VP George Shapow NY2O, Secretary Walter Watson MD, KC2MGJ, Treasurer George Masny KA2GPJ, and to the Board: Bill Hopkins AA2YV, Doug Howard KC2KNH, Mike Toombs KB2WPT, Peter Fournia W2SKY, George Platteter (sk) AA2FO, Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG and Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL.

Now follows a mystery. Your long term RARA Treasurer Richard Goslee (sk) KG2I, wrote this teaser "We can't let the cat out of the bag and you'll have to trust us on this one. There will be a special event happening at this meeting

that you won't want to miss." I'll have to research that as I don't remember this great event. Stand by. Ed

Roger Haarnart (sk) WB2BWQ, penned an article announcing the plans for yet another popular, and one of the most difficult, annual public Service events, the Susquehannock Trail Pro Rally. This semi-professional Road Rally, located in central Pennsylvania, brings racing enthusiasts country-wide where some 500 volunteers are needed to put on the event, with ham radio communications being a must have content. This year Roger has a difficult time gathering the usual cadre' of hams from the Rochester area due to the unfortunate scheduling of the Rally on Hamfest weekend.

Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, continued his coordination work on this year's public service events with more opportunities for many volunteers. Newly listed events included: E-Cubed Fair at RIT, Tour-de-Cure, Stuart Horse Trials (an easy favorite over the years – Ed), Alzheimer Memory Walk, The Finger Lakes Winery Trail and Walk for Diabetes.

A series of fun events, now lacking in participation except for one group today, was the fun and often challenging Transmitter hunts, found mostly on ten, six or two meters. Keeping such events alive is the Xerox Amateur Radio Club (XRX). Writing for this activity was Bob Karz K2OID, who still today maintains an interest and can be found, along with co-promoter Ned Asam W2NED, scheduling and operating hidden transmitters. Long gone are crystal controlled FM radios that are now replaced with Arduino's controlling challenging multi-path signals to locate. Try it, you'll like it!

Licensing Class Director Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG, wrote telling of class scheduling starting February 16th and continuing for twelve weekly sessions. Nineteen students were scheduled to date.

With regret it was reported that John Skinner WA2GIJ, Tom Fleming N2WZX, Warren Ulrich N2AUV and Tom Sweeny KC2OIF were reported as Silent Keys. Curiously, there were no Want Ads in this large issue. RARA member Sheryl Joyce AB2NU, a Sales Agent with Nothnagle Realtors, was a commercial advertiser.



the **RARA RAG**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56

MAY 2004

NO.9

Rochester Amateur Radio Association inc. Annual Corp. Meeting & Election of Officers

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

FOR VICE - PRESIDENT:

George Shapow NY2O

I have been a ham since 1956, originally licensed as WA2UOS and now NY2O. My interests in ham radio included avid collecting of antique and old equipment. I currently have 24 complete, working stations and many pieces of other equipment. I enjoy operating when I can find an opening. I'm not into contests but would like to try one and I enjoy a good rag-chew with anyone far or near.

CONTINUED NOMINEES PAGE 4

Old Timer's Night

Brad Armstrong, W1YX. Vice President

Attendance and interest at last month's talk on APRS by Jim DeTucci, N2IXD, were both great! I was disappointed that the meeting itself ran longer than expected, which meant

CONTINUED OLD TIMER'S PAGE 10

RaRa MEETING

MAY 7, 2004

8:00 PM

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.**

OLD TIMERS NIGHT

Presented by

Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN

70th Rochester Hamfest June 4-5-6

Harold Smith, K2HC

The 70th annual Rochester Hamfest combined with the Atlantic Division Convention will be held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5-6.

Your help is still needed. Get busy sending email messages to merchants you would like to see exhibit at the Hamfest. Get their email addresses from their web sites. Site addresses are listed in their advertisements appearing in QST, CQ and other amateur radio publications. Tell them you need to see and feel their products and services in person.

Visit the Hamfest web site regularly, www.rochesterhamfest.org, to learn the latest official information. The Hamfest web site is updated daily.

There is an annual awards ceremony and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 4th at Hamfest Headquarters, the Holiday Inn Rochester South at 1111 Jefferson Road. Your new club officers are installed at that dinner. Plan to attend.

Tickets at special club prices for the Hamfest, flea market parking and the dinner will be available at the May meeting.

Advance ticket sale closes May 15. After that date, all tickets must be purchased at the gates.

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 16, 2004

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB012 FCC proposes wide-ranging changes to Amateur Service rules

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice

CONTINUED ARLB12 PAGE 3

RaRa RAG 1

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

40 Years Ago, May 1984

"FLASH" Amateur Exams to be given at Rochester Hamfest," was the attention-grabbing headline on this issue of the Hamfest infested RARA Rag! For the first time ever, anywhere, you could take accredited FCC License exams outside of official FCC brick and mortar facilities. (Excluding volunteer Novice license testing and other rare U.S. possession locations) This became possible with the first Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, in this case Metroplex VEC, to be approved and appointed in the second call district by the FCC. Only Novice, Technician and General class examinations may be conducted at this time as the FCC has not yet released an official pool of questions for higher license grades. Through the efforts of RARA's Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, and John Greer KK2U, of Metroplex, the complex task of assigning Metroplex Volunteer Examiners and all their needed materials, documents, exams, and travel arrangements was successfully planned and set in motion. Local coordination saw John Schooley (sk) K2NC, assigned to the position of Hamfest Exam Chairman, a position he held for many years thereafter. To be sure, there were rare times when FCC staff, not volunteer examiners, left their offices, and travelled to temporary examination points such as hamfests. How could I forget 1977, when I arrived at the hamfest site, sat down in front of the Chief Engineer from the Buffalo FCC Office, and passed my Extra code and theory tests. The FCC people were there volunteering their time, paying their own expenses, and providing a great service. It would be all these years later before the VE program that we all admire and enjoy today became a reality.

Other Hamfest news of this era saw a two-day event, Friday, and Saturday, with Friday being the banquet and awards ceremony with Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE, as Master of Ceremonies, held at the Marriott Inn. Saturday's famous flea market started at 6:00 a.m. at the Dome Arena parking area and ran all day. Programs during the day included AMSAT and OSCAR, ARRL Forum, W2RUF Code Contest, National Traffic System, and the always offered high tech program, Measuring Reciprocal Mixing Noise, and its effect on receiver dynamic range. Tickets were \$5.00 with \$2.00 added for flea market selling.

Published in this issue were the nominees for officers and board members for the following RARA season. They were: Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, George Walker (sk) KC2EI, Alan Komenski (sk) AC2K, John Vangriethuysen N2BNE, Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH and Dave Burnheisel N2DPF.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) published in this issue of the Rag announced that their May meeting would be cancelled due to a date conflict with the hamfest. The RRRA Technical Committee reported on the recent move of the 28/88 repeater to the 3rd floor of the Cobbs Hill Radio complex. Members met on April 7th to make the successful move with the help from Gary WB2MDC, Ray WA2MYG, Dave N2DPF, Bernie KD2CU and Technical Com-

mittee Chief Ron Jakubowski K2RJ.

The RARA Nominating Committee, headed by Joe Hood K2YA, along with committee members Len Gessen (sk) WA2ZNC and Bruce KB2WN, offered the following slate of officers and board members: VP Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, Secretary John Lloyd KA2KFV, Treasurer John Van Griethuysen N2BNE and to the Board of Directors: Dave N2DPF, Howie Davies N2CUN, Keith Freeberg N2BEL, Dick Goslee (sk) K2VCZ (KG2I), Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, Ed Neubauer N2BXA and George Walker (sk) KC2EI. At the April RaRa meeting, Alan Komenski (sk) AC2K, was nominated from the floor.

Announced herein was the fact that the blank RARA member QSL cards were still available for eight dollars per thousand cards. This was an award-winning design that depicted a Rochester downtown scene with a background of a printed wiring board with traces as streets and components (resistors, capacitors, IC's, etc.) as buildings. These very unique unprinted blanks that individuals had printed with their own ham call.

The demand for Public Service Communications this year is unprecedented, reported Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, in his monthly column reporting on such things. So far there have already been 18 events with requests for our communication skills and of course the always provided hardware to make it happen.

With regret it was reported that Hugh MacPherson KA2CSD and William Bonter K2HJP, were reported as Silent Keys. From Want Ads you could purchase a pair of Drake Twins, the T4XB and R4C, for \$500.00 from Herb Haddleton WA2MST. Commercial Communications, providing all types of communications equipment repair services from their Lancaster NY location, was a small but appreciated advertiser.



the **RARA RAG**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rochester, N.Y.

MAY 1984

Volume 36 No. 9

FLASH

AMATEUR EXAMS TO BE GIVEN AT ROCHESTER HAMFEST

by Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

Following negotiations between the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Metroplex Amateur Communication Association, it was announced that Amateur examinations would be given at the Rochester Hamfest barring any unforeseen last minute administrative problems.

The agreement worked out between Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, of the Hamfest Committee and Jim Greer, KK2U, chairman of the VEC program at Metroplex, calls for the Hamfest to sponsor several Volunteer Examiners from Metroplex to bring the examination material and oversee the exams. The overall responsibility for making the final arrangements on this end falls to John Schooley, K2NC, Exam Chairman of the Hamfest.

Metroplex will have its trial run at giving Amateur exams at the BARA Hamfest, Paramus, New Jersey (Bergen Amateur Radio Club) Sunday, May 6th.

In both instances, final arrangements were made too late to include the information in the Hamfest flyers mailed. However, since Amateurs are (or at least are supposed to be) proficient communicators, it is up to all of us to spread the word as wide as possible throughout the northeast via the nets and through our everyday contacts. So, let's all talk it up and give our fellow hams as much time to prepare as possible.

MAY RAG CALENDAR

- 4 - RaRa Annual Meeting, 8 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 6 - Pittsford Walk Public Service Event
- 9 - June Rag Deadline to KB2BU
- 11 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, County Service Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 18, 19 - Rochester Hamfest

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 2nd - RaRa PICNIC !

HOW TO TAKE AN EXAM AT THE ROCHESTER HAMFEST

1. No advance registration is necessary, BUT we request that if you are planning to take an exam you send a postcard to HAMFEST EXAMS, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, New York 14603 for our planning purposes, with the class of license exam you wish to take.
2. If you are to take a code test, be at the Hamfest by 9 a.m. Schedules will be posted at that time. Otherwise, be there to check the schedules by 10 a.m.
3. Only NOVICE, TECHNICIAN and GENERAL class exams will be able to be given. The FCC has not yet released the pool of questions for the higher classes of licenses.
4. Interim operating permits will be issued to all successfully upgrading to a higher class.

SILENT KEYS

KA2CSD - Hugh M. MacPherson, Rochester
K2HJP - William N. Bonter, Spencerport

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

President: Scott Theis, W2LW	(845) 774-9809	president@rochesterham.org	Treasurer: Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB	(585) 721-2346	treasurer@rochesterham.org
Vice-President: Tim Barrett, K9VB	(646)496-5015	vicepresident@rochesterham.org	Secretary: Mike Moore, KC2NM	(585) 721-0011	secretary@rochesterham.org

DIRECTORS

Richard Bishopp, KD2UBJ	(585) 766-5631	rbishopp44@gmail.com	Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	(585) 210-0840	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Guyot, KB1POP	(585) 406-3163	timguyot@gmail.com	Dave Wilson, WA2HOY	(585) 200-4447	davidrw@rochester.rr.com
Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK	(585) 754-2444	makennerknecht@gmail.com			

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

Club Historian	Ed Gable, K2MP	egable@rochester.rr.com	Online Meetings	Scott Theis, W2LW	sa_theis@hotmail.com
Club Station Trustee	Dave Enright, K3WHD	denright1228@gmail.com	Public Service	Mike Moore, KC2NM	publicservice@rochesterham.org
Education Coordinator	Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	education@rochesterham.org	QSL MANAGER	Dave Enright, K3WHD	denright1228@gmail.com
Elmers' Corner	Richard Bishopp, KD2UBJ Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ	elmerscorner@rochesterham.org	Raffle Administrators	Forest Shick, WA2MZG Jeff Sonstein, WA2RRB	wa2mzg@arrl.net
Groups.io Moderators	Tim Barrett, K9VB Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	tim.k9vb@gmail.com k5khk@khk.net	RARA Academy	Volunteer Needed	academy@rochesterham.org
Hamfest Co-Producers	Tim Guyot, KB1POP Mike Moore, KC2NM	hfproducer@rochesterham.org	RARA RAG Editor Proofreaders	Paul Goldman, WA2TAX Forest Shick, WA2MZG Susan Aiello, W2SB Dave Wilson, WA2HO	editor@rochesterham.org Mark Pedersen, KC2UES Scott Theis, W2LW
License Testing Coordinator	Don Kiser, AC2EV	dkiser100@gmail.com	Refreshments	Rich Hoffarth, K2AXP	rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Media Communications	Tim Guyot, KB1POP	timguyot@gmail.com	Reward Points Administrator	Tim Barrett, K9VB	membership@rochesterham.org
Meeting Audio	Joe DiVincenzo, AD2DB Scott Czeck, KC1GHT	joedy58@gmail.com scottczeck@gmail.com	Telephone Hotline	Scott Theis, W2LW	sa_theis@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary	Tim Barrett, K9VB	membership@rochesterham.org	Webmaster	Scott Theis, W2LW	webmaster@rochesterham.org

ROCHESTER AREA RADIO CLUB CONTACTS

Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier (ARAST)

Reiner Dieg, N2PEZ: n2pez@arrl.net

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN: lynnbisha@gmail.com

Astronomy Section Rochester Academy of Science

Mark Minarich: mminaric@rochester.rr.com

Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)

Joe Gangi, AC2NB: ac2nb.carc@gmail.com

Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)

Gary Skuse, KA1NJL: ka1njl@arrl.net

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

drumlinsarc@gmail.com

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.

Bill Boyd, N3DSP: N3DSP@lafireline.net

Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA)

Jim Caneen, W2JTC: jcpilot@localnet.com

Monroe County ARES / RACES

Erin Platteter, AA2FO: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org

Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

Terry Cook, K2EYS: k2eys@ocarc.us

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

Scott Theis, W2LW: president@rochesterham.org

ROC City Net

Joe Merolillo, K2ZX: k2zx52@gmail.com

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS: cshalvoy@att.net

Rochester Institute of Technology ARC

Jim Stefano, W2COP: wireless@mail.rit.edu

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Bob Shewell, N2HJD: bshewell@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Rus Healy, K2UA: chairman@rvhfg.org

Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR: sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

West Side Amateur Radio Club

XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com

Rochester Makerspace

David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

JUNE RAG DEADLINE

MAY 15, 2024

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6678646271444513632>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

Published by

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY, 14692-8333

Hotline – (585) 210- 8910

Website – <http://www.rochesterham.org>